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IN THE APPLICATION

OF

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FOR A

CONTOURED GUTTER END CAP

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CONTOURED GUTTER END CAP

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to rain gutters, and more particularly, to a rain gutter end cap with front and end walls contoured to correspond to the contours of an attached gutter.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

Rain gutters are commonly used to carry rainwater from the roof of a house or other structure to a desired location on the ground. Typically, they are continuous lengths of metal formed with an open top, a front wall, a bottom and a back wall. The back wall is normally positioned flush against a vertical surface on the house or other structure such that the open top is positioned under the bottom edge of the roof. For aesthetic purposes, the front wall is usually formed with at least one decorative ridge or crease extending the length of the gutter.

End caps are used to close off the ends of a gutter where the gutter does not extend completely around the periphery of a house. These end caps consist of a flat vertical wall with edges that mate with the bottom and walls of the gutter.

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Unfortunately, these end caps suffer one well-known drawback. Because the flat vertical surface of an end cap contrasts sharply with the contoured surface of a front wall, the end caps are conspicuously unsightly.

Examples of gutter end caps that are comprised of a flat vertical wall are provided by U.S. Design Pat. No. 297,561 issued on September 6, 1988 to P.P. Leisemann; U.S. Pat. No. 1,460,733 issued on May 25, 1922 to T. Rigby; U.S. Pat. No. 4,142,370 issued March 6, 1979 to L.G. Giordano; and U.S. Pat. No. 4,407,097 issued on October 4, 1983 to J.H. Allen.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,245,800 issued September 21, 1993 to R.G. Davenport teaches a gutter end cap having a curved outside end wall and interior sloped flat walls to help the flow of water into the gutter. However, the interior walls of this end cap present at least four known drawbacks. First, the interior walls add time and expense to the manufacture of the end cap. Second, the interior walls increase the time and complexity of installation of the end cap. Third, the interior walls prevent the end caps from being easily stacked, stored and transported. And fourth, the interstice between the interior and outer walls provide an ideal nesting location for bees and other insects.

Consequently, none of the above inventions and patents, taken either singly or in combination, is seen to describe the

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instant invention as claimed. Thus a gutter end cap solving the aforementioned problem is desired.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The contoured gutter end cap has front and end walls with contours that correspond to the contours on the front wall of a length of standard gutter and thereby forms a more attractive gutter end when attached to the end of the gutter. It is formed with a bottom and three adjoining walls - a front wall, end wall and back wall. The back wall is substantially flat to allow for positioning against a vertical surface on a house or other structure.

The device also allows a gutter to be extended slightly beyond the corner of a structure on which the roofline extends slightly beyond the end of the fascia board. Thus, in such circumstances, the gutter would catch all of the rainwater running off the roof.

Additionally, with its end wall sloped inward into the gutter, the gutter end cap assists the flow of water into and through the gutter.

Accordingly, it is a principal object of the invention to provide a gutter end cap with contoured front and end walls that correspond to the contours on the front wall of a gutter and thereby provide a desirable looking gutter end.

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It is another object of the invention to provide a gutter end cap that allows a gutter to be extended slightly beyond the corner of a structure on which the roofline extends slightly beyond the end of the fascia board.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a gutter end cap with its end wall sloped inward into the gutter to thereby assist the flow of water into and through the gutter.

It is an object of the invention to provide improved elements and arrangements thereof for the purposes described which is inexpensive, dependable and fully effective in accomplishing its intended purposes.

These and other objects of the present invention will become readily apparent upon further review of the following specification and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is an environmental, perspective view of a contoured gutter end cap according to the present invention shown attached to a gutter that is mounted along the roofline of a house.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a contoured gutter end cap according to the present invention.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a contoured gutter end cap according to the present invention as attached to a gutter.

Fig. 4 is an exploded view of Fig. 3.

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Fig. 5 is a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of a contoured gutter end cap according to the present invention.

Fig. 6 is an exploded view of the alternative embodiment of Fig. 5 shown in relation to a gutter.

Similar reference characters denote corresponding features consistently throughout the attached drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention is a contoured gutter end cap designated generally as **10** in the drawings. Referring to Figs. 2, 3 and 4, the invention **10** includes a front wall **20**, an end wall **40**, a back wall **60**, and a bottom **80**.

The front wall **20** has a top edge **22**, a bottom edge **24**, and two side edges **26 and 28**. Wall **20** is contoured to correspond to the contours of the front wall **GF** of a standard length of contoured gutter **G**. From bottom edge **24**, wall **20** extends upward substantially vertically and then arcs outward and upward first forming a convex arc, then a concave arc relative to wall **20** outer surface. Wall **20** then extends substantially vertically again to wall **20** top edge **22**. Wall **20** has two holes **30** through which setscrews **S** are used to secure wall **20** to a length of gutter **G**.

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The end wall **40** has a top edge **42**, a bottom edge **44**, a proximal edge **46** and a distal edge **48**. It **40** is also contoured to correspond to the contours of the front wall **GF** of a standard length of contoured gutter **G**, and from its **40** bottom edge **44**, extends upward substantially vertically and then arcs outward and upward first forming a convex arc then a concaved arc relative to its **40** outer surface. It **40** then extends substantially vertically again to its **40** top edge **42**.

The back wall **60** has a top edge **62**, a bottom edge **64**, and two side edges **66 and 68**, and is substantially flat and substantially vertical. It **60** has a hole **70** through which a setscrew **S** is used to secure it **60** to a length of gutter **G**.

The bottom **80** has a front edge **82**, a back edge **84**, and two side edges **86 and 88**, and is substantially flat and substantially horizontal. Its **80** front edge **82** adjoins the bottom edge **24** of the front wall **20**. Its back edge **84** adjoins the bottom edge **64** of the back wall **60**, and one **86** of its side edges adjoins the bottom edge **44** of the end wall **40**. It **80** has a hole **90** through which a setscrew **S** is used to secure it **80** to a length of gutter **G**.

One of the side edges **26** of the front wall **20** adjoined the distal edge **48** of the end wall **40**, and the proximal edge **46** of the end wall adjoins one of the side edges **66** of the back wall **60**.

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The contoured gutter end cap **10** is attached to a length of gutter **G** by positioning its bottom, and front and back walls over the outer surface of corresponding walls on a length of gutter **G**, inserting a set screw **S** through the holes **30, 70 and 90**, and into the gutter walls, and applying a calking sealant to the seams formed by the overlap of the end cap walls **20, 60 and 80** with the length of gutter **G** and to holes **30, 70 and 90** and setscrews **S**.

In an alternative embodiment **100**, a top wall **112** extends horizontally from the top edge **142** of the end wall **140** to mate with lengths of gutter **G** having corresponding top walls. See Figs. 5 and 6.

Fig. 1 shows the invention **10** attached to a length of gutter that is mounted along the roofline of a house.

The invention **10** is constructed from sheet metal, such as aluminum or copper, or from plastic, and is formed by cutting, pressing, wielding or molding.

It is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to the embodiments described above, but encompasses any and all embodiments within the scope of the following claims.

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